

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 02519 060725Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
AGRE-00 /101 W

-----010516 070314Z /63

R 060212Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2877
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMCONSUL PERTH

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2519

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB? EPAP, AS
SUBJECT: TRADE UNIONS - FARMERS CLASH OVER SHEEP EXPORTS

RECENT EFFORTS BY THE MILITANT MEAT INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES UNION TO IMPOSE A QUOTA SYSTEM OF TWO OR THREE CARCASSES SLAUGHTERED BY THE MEAT INDUSTRY FOR EACH LIVE SHEEP EXPORTED, HAS LED TO WHAT MININTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, A.. "TONY" STREET HAS TERMED THE MOST DANGEROUS INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE SINCE WORLD WAR II.

HUNDREDS OF SLAUGHTERHOUSE WORKERS ARE ON STRIKE OVER THE ISSUE, AND DOCKWORKERS IN SUPPORT OF THE MEATWORKERS, ARE THREATENING TO BAN THE LOADING OF LIVESTOCK. THE LIVE SHEEP ARE SCHEDULED FOR SHIPMENT TO SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND IRAN. THESE MIDDLE EAST BUYERS WANT LIVE SHEEP FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS, BECAUSE THEY PREFER THE TASET OF FRESH MEATS. THEY ARE ALSO OVERWHELMINGLY OLD WETHERS FOR WHICH THERE IS NO DEMAND ON THE DOMESTIC MARKET.

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PAGE 02 CANBER 02519 060725Z

FARMERS, ACCORDING TO MINISTER STREET, ARE UP IN ARMS OVER THE UNION'S TACTICS AND ARE SPOILING FOR A FIGHT ON THIS ISSUE. THEY HAVE ALREADY CARRIED OUT A SERIES OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIA PORT OF ADELAIDE OVER THIS ISSUE AND ARE THREATENING TO TIE UP THE ENTIRE CITY. THE DISPUTE HAS ALSO LET TO BAD BLOOD BETWEEN SHEEP SHEARERS, WHO BELONG TO THE AUSTRALIAN WORKERS UNION,

WHO HAVE SIDED WITH THE FARMERS, AND THE MILITANT MEAT WORKERS
UNION WHICH IS LED BY COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER M. CURRAN. MINISTER
STREET SAYS HE IS CARRYING OUT MARATHON TALKS WITH A.C.T.U.
PRESIDENT ROBERT HAWKE IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE, BUT SO
FAR TO NO AVAIL.
ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, SHEEP, EXPORT CONTROLS, NEGOTIATIONS, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER02519
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780149-1084
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780487/aaaacvse.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 679b5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3058871
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRADE UNIONS - FARMERS CLASH OVER SHEEP EXPORTS RECENT EFFORTS BY THE MILITANT MEAT INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES
UNION TO IMPOSE A QUOTA SYSTEM OF TWO OR THREE CARCASSES SL
TAGS: ELAB, EPAP, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/679b5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014